

## 4. Notes on Corals from the South and Antarctic Seas.

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(Plates LXII.—LXIV.)

In 1846 Captain Sir James Ross sent to me four very detailed and accurate drawings of corals obtained in the southern part of the South Seas, informing me that I might figure them (after I had received descriptions of them from Mr. Charles Stokes) in the 'Voyage of the Erebus and Terror.' Three of the four drawings are named, in pencil, *Melitea australis*, n. s., *Primnoa rossii*, n. s., and *Madrepora fissurata*, n. s., most probably the manuscript names that Mr. Stokes intended to give them. I do not recognize that they are in his handwriting; I think the writing is that of my dear friend, James de Carle Sowerby; and I see one of the drawings is marked "J. S." I suppose Mr. Stokes had the specimens; and probably they were dispersed at his death, and are thus lost to science, as many specimens are that are collected during voyages of discovery made at the expense of Government, when given to private individuals, as is so frequently done. Captain Sir J. Ross and Mr. Stokes are both dead, and there is no hope of receiving any more particulars from them; and I feel that it is desirable that corals from such an out-of-the-way and rarely visited region should not be lost to science, and that I do not at all interfere with their wishes in laying them before the Society, and in having the drawings published after this long period of time. The other drawing represents a species of *Tubulipora*; but it does not bear any name, and, like the other three, is entirely destitute of any special habitat.

**MOPSELLA AUSTRALIS.** (Plate LXII. figs. 7–9, and Plate LXIII. figs. 10–12.)

Coral deep red, forming an expanded plane irregularly furcately branched; stem more or less sinuous; branches very unequal and acute at the tip; axis dark red-brown, longitudinally striated; articulations scarcely prominent, pale reddish; bark smooth, dark red; polypes whitish, chiefly on the sides of the branches, surrounded by a prominent ring of the bark, which is slightly sinuated on the edge.

*Melitea australis*, n. s., Stokes, ? MS.

*Hab.* Antarctic Ocean (*Ross*).

The branches of the coral seem to have the faculty of forming an expanded disk, acting as a root whenever they touch a rock or other marine body.

**FANNYELLA.**

Coral slightly furcately branched; branches club-shaped, enlarging upwards, and then rapidly contracting at the tip; polypiferous cells many, in numerous close concentric rings, forming regular



G.H. Ford

Mintern Bros Chromo lith.

NEW ANTARCTIC CORALS.



